

**CLAIMS:**

What is claimed is:

1. A method for preventing premature shutdown of a virtual machine, comprising the steps of:
  - 5 starting a waiter thread in the virtual machine;
  - monitoring daemon threads running in the virtual machine by the waiter thread; and
  - preventing shutdown of the virtual machine so long
- 10 as any of the monitored daemon threads are running in the virtual machine.
2. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
  - 15 registering daemon threads in a queue managed by the waiter thread.
3. The method as recited in claim 2, further comprising the step of:
  - 20 responsive to a first daemon thread becoming inactive, searching for other inactive daemon threads registered in the queue.
4. The method as recited in claim 2, further comprising the step of:
  - 25 responsive to a new daemon thread being created, appending the new daemon thread to the end of the queue.

5. The method as recited in claim 2, further comprising the steps of:

determining whether the queue is empty; and

if the queue is empty, waiting for the virtual

5 machine to shut down or for a new daemon thread to be created.

6. The method as recited in claim 5, further comprising the step of:

10 if a new daemon thread is created, adding the new daemon thread to the queue.

7. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the waiter thread is a normal thread.

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8. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the daemon threads are created by remote method invocation code.

9. An apparatus for preventing premature shutdown of a  
20 virtual machine, comprising:

starting means for starting a waiter thread in the virtual machine;

monitoring means for monitoring daemon threads running in the virtual machine by the waiter thread; and

25 preventing means for preventing shutdown of the virtual machine so long as any of the monitored daemon threads are running in the virtual machine.

10. The apparatus as recited in claim 9, further  
30 comprising:

registration means for registering daemon threads in a queue managed by the waiter thread.

11. The apparatus as recited in claim 10, further comprising:

means, responsive to a first daemon thread becoming inactive, for searching for other inactive daemon threads registered in the queue.

12. The apparatus as recited in claim 10, further comprising:

means for appending the new daemon thread to the end of the queue, responsive to a new daemon thread being created.

13. The apparatus as recited in claim 10, further comprising:

15 determination means for determining whether the queue is empty; and

waiting means for waiting for the virtual machine to shut down or for a new daemon thread to be created, if the queue is empty.

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14. The apparatus as recited in claim 13, further comprising:

means for adding, if a new daemon thread is created, the new daemon thread to the queue.

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15. The apparatus as recited in claim 9, wherein the waiter thread is a normal thread.

30 16. The apparatus as recited in claim 9, wherein the daemon threads are created by remote method invocation code.

17. A computer program product, in a computer readable medium, for preventing premature shutdown of a virtual machine, comprising:

5 first instructions for starting a waiter thread in the virtual machine;

second instructions for monitoring daemon threads running in the virtual machine by the waiter thread; and

10 third instructions for preventing shutdown of the virtual machine so long as any of the monitored daemon threads are running in the virtual machine.

18. The computer program product as recited in claim 17, further comprising:

15 fourth instructions for registering daemon threads in a queue managed by the waiter thread.

19. The computer program product as recited in claim 18, further comprising:

20 fifth instructions for responsive to a first daemon thread becoming inactive, searching for other inactive daemon threads registered in the queue.

20. The computer program product as recited in claim 18, further comprising:

25 sixth instructions for determining whether the queue is empty; and

seventh instructions for waiting for the virtual machine to shut down or for a new daemon thread to be created if the queue is empty.